

REMARKS

Claims 24 and 25 are amended to correct an obvious typographical error resulting in dependency from a cancelled claim.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner set forth two new grounds of rejection, namely:

- 1) Claims 1, 22, 24-27, 29, 30, 32-34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being nonpatentable over Terrasse in view of Stark; and
- 2) Claims 21, 22, 24-30 and 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al and Stark in view of Terrasse.

In the first rejection, the Examiner states on page 10 of the Examiner's Answer that Terrasse discloses a woven fabric of a reversible pattern composed of two different colors and having a "striped border regions on all four edges of the towel" (Terrasse does not disclose a towel) with the first and second faces having the reverse pattern of light/dark – dark/light. The Examiner continues stating that Terrasse suggests that it would be desirable to provide decorations and embellishments to the central area of the fabric (column 4, lines 10-13) as set forth atop page 11 of the Examiner's Answer. In reviewing this section of Terrasse, it is noted that Terrasse merely states that "it would be very easy to produce in the middle, "repeats of the border" so as to decorate or embellish the center of the article".

The Examiner states that Terrasse fails to teach printing in the central area of the fabric. The Examiner continues stating that Stark discloses that it is known to add printed designs in or out of registry with woven patterns to produce finished products. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add a printed design as disclosed by Stark to the pattern fabric taught by Terrasse since Stark teaches that woven patterned fabric can be enriched by applying a printed pattern to the fabric which enhances the desirability of the end product.

Terrasse is a woven fabric with an opposite but repeating pattern on both sides of the fabric. The multiple striped borders around the central area of the woven fabric of Terrasse can only include more woven stripes to further embellish the center of the woven fabric article as set forth in column 4, lines 9-12. Repeating these patterns does not suggest to one skilled in the art that a central area can be employed to print a decoration thereon. Terrasse teaches weaving additional border patterns in the central area, not printing. Terrasse is an invention limited by the white/blue reverse patterns on a woven fabric. Nothing in Terrasse suggests, for example, that a wolf design, for example, can be "printed" on the woven fabric as opposed to weaving more borders on or within the central area.

Stark, on the other hand, does disclose a product which has pile fabrics of various colors wherein the pile is of varying heights (with a small portion of it being cut) to produce a design and along with a printed floral design. Thus, there is nothing to teach those skilled in the art that Terrasse in view of Stark would cause one to print on the central area a design rather than weave borders into the design.

Claim 21 also states that the border on one side of the towel is capable of masking said graphic impression that may overlap onto said border from the central area. Additionally Claim 21 also states that wherein the central area on one side of the towel is capable of masking any potential bleed-through of the graphic impression from the central area of the other side. Nothing in Terrasse or Stark teaches such functions. Furthermore, it is noted that the Examiner does not address these area other than to say that the "dark and light colors would inherently be able to mask dark or light printing colors, respectively, which might overlap onto the border regions or bleed-through onto the back of the fabric". There is no basis for the Examiner's statement. The Examiner assumes that light colors would be masked by dark colors. There is nothing in the Examiner's assertion that would cause one skilled in the art to conclude that this statement is a statement of fact. Accordingly, such a statement cannot be "inherent" as set forth by the Examiner.

The second new ground of rejection is Parker in view of Stark, further in view of Terrasse, as stated above. The Examiner states that Parker teaches a woven pattern fabric which includes two different colored yarns which are woven to form a patterned design on the first side and an inversely colored design on the opposite. The Examiner states that Parker fails to teach adding a printed design to the patterned pile fabric. The Examiner relies on Stark to teach having a printed design. The Examiner notes that Terrasse discloses a woven fabric with a reversible image made from two different colored yarns having a central section of the first color and striped border regions with the second color on the first side of the fabric and the opposite colors on the second side of the fabric. The Examiner concludes it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the known weaving design of Terrasse as a weave pattern in a woven fabric taught by Parker et al, since Parker et al discloses that woven fabrics can comprise two contrasting colored yarns and include border regions.

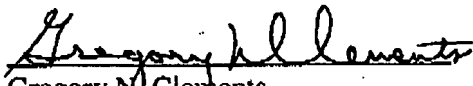
Parker and Terrasse are similar from the viewpoint that both offer stripes which can be of different colors and can proceed the full width of the goods. These stripes can be of contrasting color and the pattern and background on the face can be reversed on the backside of the textile fabric. Neither Parker nor Terrasse teach employing a printed design on the central area. Stark, on the other hand, does disclose the use of a printed design such as a floral design. There is no teaching in Terrasse or Parker that would suggest to one skilled in the art the desire for a printed design. Both Parker and Terrasse employ stripes as their design mechanism with the number and color of the stripes being a matter of design. Stark, on the other hand, teaches no textile fabric with reversible colors. Stark teaches different pile heights on a single side of a fabric which can be associated with a printed floral design, for example. There is no suggestion or teaching of combining the printed design of Stark onto Parker, Terrasse, or the combination of Parker and Terrasse. There is no suggestion in any of the references that "the border on one side is capable of masking said graphic impression that may overlap onto said border from the central area", nor any disclosure for "wherein the central area on said other side is capable of masking any potential bleed-through of said graphic impression from the central area of said one side".

In addition to the above, it is noted that Claims 28 and 35 call for the textile article to be sheared and bloomed. Stark discloses a cut pile in a small area of the textile, but there is no shearing from the viewpoint that the loop piles are various heights as illustrated, for example, in Figure 2. And even if one were to state that the cut pile is equivalent of the sheared pile, there is no disclosure in Parker, Stark or Terrasse of bloomed fibers. Accordingly, Claims 28 and 35 appear to have separate grounds for overcoming the rejection.

All other rejections set forth in the Examiner's Answer are responded to and set forth in Applicant's Brief. The response to such rejections set forth in Applicant's Brief is hereby incorporated into this response or request under 37 CFR 1.111.

Applicants await Examiner's Office Action in due course.

Respectfully submitted,


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